
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

March 16, 2014

TEXT: *Joshua 9:1-14 KJV*

And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; (2) That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. (3) And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, (4) They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; (5) And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. (6) And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. (7) And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? (8) And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? (9) And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, (10) And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. (11) Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. (12) This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: (13) And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey. (14) And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.

INTRO: *Failing to Seek the LORD*

In Deuteronomy God give very specific instruction to the children of Israel about the Promised Land and its inhabitants

Deuteronomy 20:15-18 KJV God's Judges False gods

Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations. (16) But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: (17) But ***thou shalt utterly destroy them***; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee: (18) ***That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God***.

Here's the story…

I. *The Great Gibeonite Scam*

Joshua 9:3-6 KJV

And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, (4) They did work wilily, ***and went and made as if*** they had been ambassadors, and took ***old*** sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, ***old***, and ***rent***, and bound up; (5) And ***old*** shoes and clouted upon their feet, and ***old*** garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was ***dry*** and ***mouldy***. (6) And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, ***We be come from a far country***: now therefore make ye a league with us.

It could have all been settled fairly quickly -- but…

II. *The Greater Israelite Mistake*

Joshua 9:14 KJV

And the men took of their victuals, ***and asked not*** counsel ***at the mouth of the LORD***.

You would have thought that they would have *learned their lesson in Ai*… It's possible that they were pointing fingers at Achan and didn't even realize their own short-comings. **– Do We Ever Do That? –**

Apparently many of us have the ability to see ourselves in a much better light than we see others

Matthew 7:3-5 KJV

And why beholdest thou the **mote** that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the **beam** that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, ***first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye***.

They Asked Not Counsel At The Mouth Of The LORD

The Israelites **did not ask counsel of the LORD** about the matter, but **made a covenant with the Gibeonites**.

Satan can talk religiously so very well; he deceives us only when we take the management of our lives into our own hands, instead of consulting the Lord.

Why did Israel need allies? ***Was Jehovah God not enough? Was He not sufficient***?

May we always trust in Him, seek counsel of Him, own none but Him, and to be always subject to Him! **This will ensure victory over every enemy, and the land will be all ours**.

III. *The Godly Resolution*

Three days later the scheme was exposed, and there was irritation among the Jews to kill the tricksters. But **the rulers decided to honor the treaty** by sparing the Gibeonites.

Joshua 9:17-23 KJV

And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and

Kirjathjearim. (18) And the children of **Israel smote them not, because the princes** of the congregation **had sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel.** And all the congregation murmured against the princes. (19) But all the princes said unto all the congregation, **We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel**: now therefore we may not touch them. (20) This we will do to them; **we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them**. (21) And the princes said unto them, **Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation**; as the princes had promised them. (22) And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, ***Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us?*** (23) Now therefore ***ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.***

Joshua and the princes were wise in keeping their oath, even though they had been deceived in the matter. Four centuries later, King Saul tried to exterminate the Gibeonites and was punished by God for it.

2 Samuel 21:1-3 KJV

Then there was a ***famine*** in the days of David ***three years***, year after year; and **David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered**, ***It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites***. (2) And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and ***the children of Israel had sworn unto them***: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) (3) ***Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?***

Joshua 11:19 KJV

There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle.

So where does this leave the Acts Church today?

Matthew 6:33 KJV

But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Proverbs 3:1-12 KJV

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: (2) For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. (3) Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: (4) So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. (5) Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (8) It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (9) Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: (10) So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (11) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: (12) For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Psalms 73:24-28 KJV

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. (25) Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. (26) My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. (27) For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. (28) But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.